

LESSON 13

Part A

In this lesson we learn:

1. The plural of nouns and adjectives. In English adjectives have no plural form. We say: "good man" and "good men". But in Arabic even adjectives have plural form.

In English we have two kinds of plural form:

- (1) Sound, and
- (2) Broken

In the sound plural the word retains its original form e.g.

Book ⇒ books, pen ⇒ pens.

In the broken plural the original form of the word is changed to a great extent, e.g.

Man ⇒ men, woman ⇒ women.

In Arabic we have these two kinds of plural form: sound and broken.

- The **sound plural** is either masculine or feminine. The sound masculine plural has «-ûna» ending. e.g.

مُسْلِمٌ	⇒	مُسْلِمُونَ
<i>muslim-u-n</i>		<i>muslim-ûna</i>
مُدَرِّسٌ	⇒	مُدَرِّسُونَ
<i>mudarris-u-n</i>		<i>mudarris-ûna</i>

The sound feminine plural has «ât-u-n» ending. e.g.

مُسْلِمَةٌ	⇒	مُسْلِمَاتٌ
<i>muslimat-u-n</i>		<i>muslimât-u-n</i>
مُهَنْدِسَةٌ	⇒	مُهَنْدِسَاتٌ
<i>muhandisat-u-n</i>		<i>muhandisât-u-n</i>

Note that in this plural form the singular has short «a» before the «t» (*muslimat-u-n*), and the «t» is round (ة), where as in the plural the «a» is long, and the «t» is open (*muslimât-u-n*).

In pronunciation the only difference between the singular and the plural is the shortness and length of «a»:

<i>muslimat-u-n</i>	<i>muslimât-u-n</i>
↑	↑

- The **broken plural**. Unlike in English, the broken plural is very widely used in Arabic. There are more than twenty patterns of the broken plural. Some are given in this lesson. These are:

فُعُولٌ	نَجْمٌ	نُجُومٌ
(1u2û3-u-n) ¹	<i>najm-u-n</i>	<i>nujûm-u-n</i>
فُعُلٌ	كِتَابٌ	كُتُبٌ
(1u2u3-u-n)	<i>kitâb-u-n</i>	<i>kutub-u-n</i>
فِعَالٌ	جَبَلٌ	جِبَالٌ
(1i2â3-u-n)	<i>jabal-u-n</i>	<i>jibâl-u-n</i>
فُعَالٌ	تَاجِرٌ	تُجَّارٌ
(1u22â3-u-n)	<i>tâjir-u-n</i>	<i>tujjâr-u-n</i>
أَفْعَالٌ	قَلَمٌ	أَقْلَامٌ
(a12â3-u-n)	<i>qalam-u-n</i>	<i>aqlâm-u-n</i>
فُعَلَاءٌ	زَمِيلٌ	زُمَلَاءٌ
(1u2a3â'-u)	<i>zamîl-u-n</i>	<i>zumalâ'-u</i>
This is without tanwîn		
أَفْعِلَاءٌ	صَدِيقٌ	أَصْدِقَاءٌ
(a12ilâ -u)	<i>sadîq-u-n</i>	<i>asdiqâ'-u</i>
This is without tanwîn		
فِعْلَةٌ	أَخٌ	إِخْوَةٌ
(1i23at-u-n)	<i>akh-u-n</i>	<i>ikhwat-u-n</i>

The Student is advised to learn the plural form of every new noun and adjective he learns.

¹.The numbers 1, 2 and 3 refer to the first, second and third letters of the word.

2. The plural of هَذَا and هَذِهِ is هَؤُلَاءِ (hâ 'ulâ 'i), e.g.

هَذَا تَاجِرٌ .

This is a merchant.

هَؤُلَاءِ تَجَّارٌ .

These are merchants.

هَذِهِ مُدْرِسَةٌ .

This is a lady teacher.

هَؤُلَاءِ مُدْرِسَاتٌ .

These are lady teachers.

Note that هَؤُلَاءِ is mostly used with human beings. Its use to refer to non-human beings is rare. See lesson 16 to find out what word to be used with non-human beings.

3. The plural of هُوَ "he" is هُمْ "they" (masculine). Unlike the singular هُوَ the plural هُمْ is used to refer only to human beings, e.g.

هُوَ مُدْرِسٌ .

He is a teacher.

هُمْ مُدْرِسُونَ .

They are teachers.

The plural of هُـ (his) is هُمْـ (their), e.g.

Where is their house?

أَيْنَ يَتِيمُهُمْ ؟

Their father is a famous merchant

أَبُوهُمْ تَاجِرٌ شَهِيرٌ .

Note that the words for "they" and "their" have the same form (هُمْ).

4. We have learnt ذَهَبَ "he went". Now "they went" is ذَهَبُوا dhahabû. Note that there is an alif at the end of the word which is not pronounced.

Note that the pronoun that we have learnt in this part of the lesson is masculine.

We will learn the feminine pronoun in Part B of this lesson.

5. بَعْضُ "some", e.g.

بَعْضُهُمْ مُدْرِسُونَ ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ مُهَنْدِسُونَ .

Some of them are teacher, and some (of them) are engineers.

Exercises

Ex.1: Change the subject of the following sentences to plural as shown in the example.

Ex.2: Change the underlined word to plural and reconstruct the sentence.

Ex.3: Make the following nouns mudâf using first a noun, and then a pronoun as shown in the example.

Note that in nouns ending in alif and hamzah the hamzah is written above a waw when followed by a pronoun, but when followed by a noun it remains independent. e.g.

Muhammad's sons

أَبْنَاءُ مُحَمَّدٍ

His sons

أَبْنَاؤُهُ

Ex.4: Change the subject of the following sentences to plural as shown in the example.

Ex.5: Read and write.

Ex.6: Write the plural of the following nouns and adjectives.

Vocabulary

فَتِيَّةٌ plural of فَتًى young man	أَسْمَاءُ pl of اِسْمٌ name
طَوَالٌ pl of طَوِيلٌ tall	رِجَالٌ pl of رَجُلٌ man
طُلَّابٌ pl of طَالِبٌ student	النَّاسُ people
جُدَّدٌ pl of جَدِيدٌ new	قِصَارٌ pl of قَصِيرٌ short
ضَيْفٌ guest, pl ضُيُوفٌ	حُجَّاجٌ pl of حَاجٌ pilgrim
قَرْيَةٌ village	أَصْدِقَاءُ pl of صَدِيقٌ friend
حَقْلٌ field, pl حُقُولٌ	الْمَطْعَمُ restaurant, mess
زُمَلَاءُ pl of زَمِيلٌ class-mate	أَبْنَاءُ pl of ابْنٌ son
مُجْتَهِدُونَ pl of مُجْتَهِدٌ hardworking	شُيُوخٌ old man, learned-man, pl شَيْخٌ

Part B

In this part we learn the following:

1. The plural of هِيَ "she" is هُنَّ, e.g.

They are my brothers,
and they are my sisters.

هُمْ إِخْوَتِي ،
وَهُنَّ أَخَوَاتِي .

The plural of هَا "her" is هُنَّ "their". Note that the pronouns for "they" and "their" are the same.

They are my class-mates and this is their house. هُنَّ زَمِيلَاتِي ، وَهَذَا بَيْتُهُنَّ .

2. We have already learnt that the plural of هَذِهِ is هَؤُلَاءِ, i.e. it is the same for both the masculine and the feminine.
3. We have learnt in Part A that ذَهَبُوا means "they went" (masculine). "They went" (feminine) is ذَهَبْنَ (dhahabna), e.g.

Where are your brothers?

أَيْنَ إِخْوَتُكَ ؟

They went to the university.

ذَهَبُوا إِلَى الْجَامِعَةِ .

And where are your sisters?

أَيْنَ أَخَوَاتُكَ ؟

They went to the library.

ذَهَبْنَ إِلَى الْمَكْتَبَةِ .

4. We have already learnt the formation of the sound feminine plural. In the pronunciation the «a» before the «t» is lengthened. In writing, in addition to this, the "round ta" is changed to "open ta", e.g.

مُسْلِمَةٌ

⇒

مُسْلِمَاتٌ

muslimat-u-n

⇒

muslimât-u-n

Note that the following plurals which are irregular:

بِنْتُ

bint-un

أُخْتُ

ukht-un

فَتَاةٌ

fatâ-u-n

بَنَاتٌ

banât-un

أَخَوَاتٌ

akhawât-u-n

فَتَيَاتٌ

fatayât-u-n

✍ Exercises

Ex.1: Change the subject in the following sentences to plural. Note that adjectives like جُدُّ ، طَوَالٌ ، صِغَارٌ ، كِبَارٌ are the same for masculine and feminine.

Ex.2: Read and write.

Ex.3: Change the subject in the following sentences to plural .

Ex.4: Fill in the blanks using the suitable demonstrative pronoun:

(هَذَا ، هَذِهِ ، هَؤُلَاءِ).

Note that هَؤُلَاءِ is for both masculine and feminine.

Ex.5: Fill in the blanks using the suitable personal pronoun:

(هُوَ ، هُمْ ، هِيَ ، هُنَّ).

Ex.6: Write the plural of the following nouns and adjectives.

📖 Vocabulary

أُسْتَاذَةٌ lady professor

النِّسَاءُ women (plural from a different root)

زَوْجَةٌ wife

مُسْتَشْفَى الْوِلَادَةِ husband maternity hospital

عَمَّةُ aunt (father's sister) الْمَرْأَةُ women

Part C

In this part we learn that the plural of ذَلِكَ and تِلْكَ is أُولَئِكَ “those”. Note that the waw (و) in أُولَئِكَ is not pronounced. The words is pronounced *ulâ'ika*.

✍ Exercises

Ex.1: Change the subject of the following sentences to plural as shown in the example.

Ex.2: Fill in the blanks using the suitable demonstrative pronoun: (تِلْكَ أُولَئِكَ)،

(ذَلِكَ).

Ex.3: Write the plural of the following nouns.

Ex.4: Read the following keeping in mind that these broken plural patterns have no tanwîn.